



*"People
helping people
help
themselves"*

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

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First Steps stakeholders, parents and providers,

It is the goal of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) to meet not only the financial obligations of the First Steps program for today, but to support an early intervention system that is sustainable for future generations. With that in mind, DDRS is looking closely at the First Steps program to determine where reasonable budget adjustments may be made, while continuing to identify sources of additional program revenue. Changes to the program are aimed at increasing accountability, and improving communication among providers and families, while maintaining a system of quality services.

Attached, you will find the proposals that DDRS is moving forward. We openly acknowledge many of these changes will directly affect local programs. We also know that like the State, you will be asked to make tough decisions on your future involvement in the First Steps system. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to submit your questions and comments to the First Steps web at firststepsweb@fssa.in.gov. We are working on a very tight timeline; however we will attempt to address your comments and suggestions. Updates and future communication will be posted on the First Steps web under "what's new" <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2821.htm> as well as through email communications and the DDRS list serve.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the long term success of our First Steps system.

